Even the two or three puerperal diseases included in the volume are treated of with a fulness greatly disproportionate to the summary manner in which nearly all that relates to practical midwifery is considered.

We have nothing especial to object to the views and instructions laid down in the manual—on the contrary, with the author, in most of his theoretical teachings, we fully agree, and have no disposition to question the accuracy of his clinical directions. All we complain of—if it be correct to say that we complain at all—is that the work is somewhat anomalous in its character; in some of its chapters presenting a fulness belying its assumed title of manual, while the conciseness of others prevents it from being received as a complete practical treatise.

We like the arrangement adopted in the volume before us—those subjects which mutually illustrate each other being placed as nearly as possible in juxtaposition. For instance, in place of treating of the pelvis and the fœtal cranium at the commencement, they are described anatomically and in their normal obstetrical relations, immediately before the consideration of the mechanism of labour, with which they are so obviously concerned. In like manner, the deformities of the pelvis are treated of in the chapters preceding the subject of difficult labour from that cause. We cannot see, however, any propriety or advantage of placing, as the author has done, the chapters devoted to puerperal mania, puerperal convulsions, puerperal fever, phlegmasia dolens, and other affections of the puerperal state, before those which treat of the induction of premature labour, turning, the use of instruments, the Cæsarean section, etc.

In the concluding chapter, the various causes of death, from childbirth, are grouped together and compared; and the means by which we may reasonably hope that the amount of mortality, both as regards the mother and child, will be considerably diminished hereafter, are insisted upon.

The manual is illustrated by one hundred and eighty well executed engravings, upwards of twenty of which have been contributed by the author, the remainder being borrowed from the various current works on the subject of midwifery. D. F. C.

Art. XXVIII.—*Reports of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum of New Brunswick, for the years* 1854, 1855, *and* 1856.

By the kindness of Dr. John Waddell, Superintendent of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum of New Brunswick, we have received the reports of that institution for the three years terminating with 1856. They are less elaborate than most of the similar publications emanating from kindred institutions within the United States; and the larger part of their contents is matter of merely local importance.

A remark in a former notice, in this journal, of reports from the New Brunswick Asylum has called forth, from Dr. Waddell, a brief account of the origin of the institution. He says: "Previously to the erection of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, there existed in the city [St. John], for a number of years, a provisional Institution for the Insane." The buildings now occupied were so far completed as to permit occupation by officers and patients on the 12th of December, 1848.

Patients admitted under the superintendence of Dr. G. P. Peters,[1] and by transfer from the provisional institution, on the day just mentioned	90
Admitted from that date to October 31, 1856	646
Whole number	736
Discharged, including 134 deaths	586
Remaining	150

The whole number of cures is not stated.

[1] Dr. Peters was succeeded by Dr. Waddell on the 6th of December, 1849.

The increase of admissions is shown by the following numbers of patients received from 1849 to 1855, inclusive: 48, 59, 67, 88, 92, 108, 101. In ten months of 1856, the number admitted was 81.

Relative to the mortality, which, as will be perceived, is large, Dr. Waddell says: "It is important to notice that in the Province there is no separate receptacle for the incurable insane; that the poor are supported at the expense of the Provincial Government, and that when an individual becomes a burden to friends or the parish, and it can be certified that the mind is not sound, he is sent here."

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Patients in the Asylum, December 31, 1853 .	70	57	127
Admitted in the 2 years and 10 months covered by these reports	160	130	290
Whole number	230	187	417
Discharged, including deaths	152	115	267
Remaining, October 31, 1856	78	72	150
Of those discharged, there were cured . .	79	44	123
Died	31	34	65

The subjoined extract is from the report for 1854.

"The leading event of the year is, that cholera was in the city and neighbourhood around us, and that we escaped. On its approach, our first duty was to *see* that, beyond doubt, the premises, in every part, were as nearly as possible, in a state of thorough cleanliness. Great attention to diet was observed; bread was substituted for vegetables; attendants were induced to remain at home, and the whole household, as far as possible, was isolated from the scenes of distress reported in the vicinity. * * * * * At the time cholera prevailed, and for weeks after it had passed away as an epidemic, the digestive organs of the whole household were in a highly irritable condition. In many cases diarrhœa and dysentery were developed; in others, irritability induced discomfort; and in all, the vital powers were lowered; and those who were before much exhausted, from chronic ailments, as the season advanced, one after another, gradually yielded to the complicated causes of depression, and finally sank."

In the report for 1855, it is stated that a new wing was opened early in November of that year; and that, on the 30th October, two of the "most experienced attendants came to their death by the violence of one of the patients."

In the report for 1856, Dr. Waddell urges previously alleged arguments in favour of the still further extension of the building, and the introduction of apparatus for heating by steam and lighting by gas.

Art. XXIX.—*Ophthalmic Hospital Reports and Journal of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital.* Edited by J. F. Streatfeild. Oct., 1857, Jan., 1858.

We have at present the space only to announce this periodical, which supplies a desideratum in medical literature, and to bespeak for it the patronage of the profession in this country. It is issued quarterly, and the two numbers before us contain papers of great practical interest and value. We shall give a further notice of them in our next.